

The West Hants Club

Tennis Forum Meeting

Thursday 25th November 2021 at 11.15am

(10.30am – 11.15am Safeguarding Training with Sarah-Jane Wright attended by NA, BB, HB)

MINUTES

Present:

Neil Abercrombie, Boyd Brackstone (Chair), Howard Butterworth, Peter Elviss, James White, Sasha Wood.

1. Welcome:

BB welcomed members to the Forum and thanked them for making time to attend the Safeguarding Training as well as the Forum meeting. Due to Covid the Forum had not been able to meet in person since February 2020. BB updated the Forum that Andrew Sanger had stepped down from the Forum due ill health. Max Wright has left the Club and sadly Judy Williams passed away.

2. Apologies:

Debbie Merritt & Maria Shanks

3. Adoption of Minutes from 25th February 2020:

These were taken as read.

4. Review of members/constitution of the Tennis Forum:

BB reported that the number of members of the Forum was down for a variety of reasons and recruitment was needed. Areas of representation to be identified. PE suggested the purpose of the Forum needed to be clarified along with who should be on the Forum and what section of the membership they represent.

HB left the meeting at 11.30am

BB to write the body of text to invite members to come forward if they are interested in joining the Forum / invite applications. This can then go out via the Club website and social media platforms / email from Peter? / Newsletter? BB / SW

Wendy Hewitt was suggested as a good candidate to join the Forum as she is a playing team captain and also has a son on the junior coaching programme. BB to contact Wendy. BB

5. Proposal and acceptance of New Tennis Forum Members (inc. Peter Jarvis' request to join the Forum):

It was agreed that new Forum Members did not need to be proposed / seconded. Peter Jarvis was approved by those present at the meeting, BB to check with Forum members not present that they agree. BB

6. Role of the Tennis Forum / Regularity of meetings:

It was agreed that 2 main meetings a year would be ideal with smaller meetings if required as and when. The role of the Forum is to support the Tennis department giving feedback from the membership and representing a cross section of playing members. In addition to representing the membership the Forum provide advice and support and input for events such as; Club handicap, Club Champs, Club teams and the internal leagues. PE added that the Forum would also be consulted for input on matters such as court surfaces.

7. Update on coaching programme from Acting Director of Tennis James White (including indoor court availability complaint from Peter Swallow):

- I. JW provided attached report.
- II. JW updated the Forum there are currently staffing challenges (still short) and BGTC were also short staffed. Currently advertising for a new coach. There is high demand for individual lessons. Club programme numbers have increased which could be a combination of Tennis being one for the sports first permitted when lockdown eased and the coaching programme sign-up moving to online (through Club Spark system).
- III. SW asked if Rob Booth was responsible for Adult Programme as per Minutes of previous meeting? It was confirmed that James McIntosh is the Adult Co-ordinator.
- IV. JW updated the Forum on West Hants successes;

11U Performance Programme (Scott Holland)

40 players attending county training
8 players playing at g2 national level

RPDC / Academy Programme (Rich Irwin / James White)

7 players at G1 nationals in the summer
Tennis Europe International event winner
TH school team qualified for national finals (top 4 in uk)
G2 National Tour winners. Multiple other Grade 3 wins.

19 out of 22 junior events at Dorset county closed won by West Hants Players

- V. Scott Holland tabled the number of U10 national players who have come through West Hants (59) – table attached.
- VI. Pete Swallow complaint – no indoor court availability 4.30pm weekdays; PE explained that 3.30pm – 6.30pm has always been Junior Coaching time with all indoor courts taken out for this purpose. JW explained there were increased numbers across the whole coaching programme plus in order to comply with LTA requirements RPDC junior players must have 16hrs on court per week / Academy players 13hrs. The successes of our players requires court time. When lockdown eased the coaching programme did not use indoor courts so members became used to getting more access to these courts between 3.30pm – 6.30pm but we are back to the usual indoor coaching programme. JW agreed to look at the timetable and use BGTC if possible but it is not always suitable.

8. The 2022 Rackets Programme & how Tennis fits in with other WH Rackets sports (Squash / Racketball / Padel):

SW had circulated the proposed 2022 Rackets Programme prior to the meeting. SW reported the only change so far is to move the Padel Handicap event from 24th/25th Sept to the previous weekend of 17th / 18th Sept to avoid clashing with the Tennis Club Champs Finals.

9. 2022 Club Champs format – options to be discussed and agreed:

The 2 options had been circulated prior to the meeting. Option 1 was scheduled indoor matches over 5 weekends. Option 2 was a summer event held over a number of weeks with players arranging their own matches within set dates and finals played on 24th / 25th September. HB had previously registered his support of Option 2. Option 2 was agreed by all present.

10. Date of next meeting to coincide with the Handicap closing date / to agree allocation of handicaps for the 2022 entries:

SW advised the Forum that the closing date would be Sunday 27th February 2022 with the draws due to be on display by Saturday 5th March. Therefore, Tuesday 1st March would be best for the Forum to meet and agree the handicapping. Time of meeting to be advised in due course.

SW

11. Singles Box Leagues – purpose and ethos of the leagues / rules / administration / minimum age:

- I. SW reported that except for one disgruntled and often rude member the leagues (singles & doubles) continue to run smoothly. The challenge of arranging the leagues when there are so many variables makes it impossible to be run as an exact formula. BB agreed the winner of each division should be promoted but outside of that it was not always possible to state a set number of players to be promoted/relegated each league cycle due to the many variables (withdrawals/injuries/new players/incomplete matches etc).
- II. It has become apparent that the purpose / ethos /rules etc need to be updated to be more user friendly and transparent. Giving members clear information and understanding of what they are entering and the ethos behind it.
- III. The Forum agreed the leagues were intended as friendly, competitive matches between club members. Any players wishing to compete in a more serious environment should enter LTA sanctioned and run events or play in the Dorset Leagues?
- IV. SW was looking into submitting the internal box league results (singles & doubles) to the LTA as they will count towards the new World Tennis Number (WTN) scheme launched by the LTA. Results will count if players are British Tennis Members. The leagues will continue to run in the same way but by submitting the results it supports the new WTN scheme and provides eligible results for those players wishing to be part of the WTN scheme.

- V. NA & SW to review and rewrite the League information for approval from the Forum. Once approved the information will be circulated and displayed.

SW / NA

12. AOB:

- I. PE reported that he hoped to put in a planning application for 3 Padel courts on centre court. Matter ongoing.
- II. PE agreed that if NA recruited 5 new team captains, then 5 new teams could be entered into the Men's Doubles event of the Dorset Doubles League.
- III. BB thanked JW for his input and congratulated him on the successes with the coaching department.
- IV. JW explained it was difficult to promote the successes more freely due to Safeguarding on social media.
- V. PE agreed that JW has done a fantastic job.

13. D&TNM:

Tuesday 1st March 2022 (time tba)

Meeting closed at 12.45pm

Distribution List:

Neil Abercrombie, Boyd Brackstone, Howard Butterworth, Peter Elviss, Debbie Merritt, Maria Shanks, James White, Sasha Wood